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SOURCE Ta Kung Pao.REGULATIONS GOVERNING ORGANIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS

Peiping 16 July (Hsin-hua) -- On 14 July the Administration Council passed the following regulations governing the organization of agricultural associations:

A. General

1. The agricultural association is a voluntary organization of farmers.
2. The functions of the agricultural association are:
 - a. To unite farm laborers, poor farmers, middle-class farmers, and all antifeudalistic village dwellers for an orderly reform of feudalistic society in the interests of the peasants and according to the policies and laws of the People's Government.
 - b. To organize agricultural production, carry on agricultural cooperatives, promote agricultural and supplementary projects, and improve the livelihood of the peasants.
 - c. To protect the political privileges, raise the political and cultural level of the farmers, and carry on a constructive people's democratic political program.
3. The agricultural association is the legal executive body for the carrying out of the land-reform system in the peasant villages in accordance with the land-reform law of the People's Republic of China.

B. Membership

4. All farm laborers, poor farmers, middle-class farmers, village handicraft workers, and impoverished revolutionary intelligentsia living in the villages may join the association after having been approved by the membership committee. All agricultural association workers sent into the villages for the purpose of promoting the work of the associations may join the association upon

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approval of the local peasants' or peasants' delegates in assembly. After completion of land reform, wealthy peasants may join the association upon the approval of the peasants' meeting or the meeting of the peasants' delegates.

5. The privileges of agricultural association members are as follows:

- a. To speak, to vote, to elect and be elected, and to propose changes in the rights or privileges of agricultural association workers.
- b. To receive all legal advantages and protection of the association.
- c. To enjoy the cultural, educational, and economic privileges of the association.

6. Responsibilities of members:

- a. Obey the rules of the association.
- b. Act in accord with the organization.
- c. Carry out the decisions of the organization.
- d. Pay association dues.

C. Organization

7. The basic unit of the agricultural association is the hsiang association (or a comparable administrative unit). Above the hsiang there may be a ch'u association, a hsien association and a provincial association. Municipalities may organize suburban agricultural associations as central leadership organizations for the hsiang and ch'u agricultural associations in the suburban areas controlled by the municipality. The large administrative districts may organize administrative district associations in accordance with the requirements of the circumstances after having, in consultation with the pertinent provincial agricultural associations, convened an administrative district peasants' delegates' meeting.

8. The agricultural association is a democratic assembly in which the majority rules. Associations on the lower levels defer to those on the higher levels; members obey the organization.

9. The executive body of the agricultural association on each level is the peasants' delegates' meeting on that level. Its controlling authority is exercised in accordance with the law of the government and the direction of the agricultural association on the next higher level. In accordance with demands of the local peasantry, it decides upon the policies and plans of peasants' movements, passes upon the reports of the association committee, and elects the association committee.

10. The delegates to the peasants' delegates' meeting on all levels are obtained as follows:

The delegates to hsiang peasants' delegates' meeting are directly elected by the peasants of the hsiang. Peasants who are not members of the agricultural association may join in the election of peoples' delegates on the approval of the association committee of the hsiang association. Delegates to the hsien and ch'u peasants' delegates' meeting are elected by the hsiang peasants' meeting or peasants' delegates' meeting. Delegates to the provincial or special administrative district peasants' delegates' meeting are elected by the hsien peasants' delegates' meeting.

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The number of delegates to the peasants' delegates' meeting on the various levels is set by the agricultural association committees on each level in accord with actual conditions and the list is submitted to the agricultural association on the next higher level for approval.

11. The length of a peasants' delegates' meeting shall be decided by the provincial agricultural association in accordance with its regulations.

12. Between sessions of the peasants' delegates' meetings, the agricultural association committee is the executive body of the association. The agricultural association committee on each level is elected by the peasants' delegates' meeting on the same level. Regular and candidate committee members are thus elected. The committee members elect their own chairman and one or more vice chairmen. They also set up a number of subcommittees or sections to handle the various affairs of the committee.

13. The term of office of the association committeemen on the various levels is set by the regulations of the provincial agricultural association.

14. In areas where agricultural associations have not been organized, the local authorities may call a provisional conference of peasants' delegates for the election of a number of committeemen to constitute a preparatory committee for the organization of an agricultural association and to carry out the duties of an agricultural association committee. This committee shall exercise the same powers as a regular agricultural association committee ad interim. When a new committee shall have been elected by a regular session of the peasants' delegates' meeting, the preparatory committee shall consider its duties at an end.

15. If the peasants' delegates' meeting or the agricultural association committee violates the agricultural association regulations or discipline, it shall be dealt with according to the gravity of the offense. In case of an offense by an association member, he shall be first exhorted, then warned, have his responsibilities reduced, and finally expelled from the association. In case of an offense by a whole organization it shall be first reprimanded, partial changes made in its leadership, its leaders expelled from office and provisional leaders appointed, and finally the whole organization disbanded and individuals appointed to effect a new organization.

16. In case the agricultural association committee on all levels, considers it necessary, it may call a conference of the association delegates.

D. Finances

17. The source of income of the agricultural association is the dues of its members and grants from the People's government. Each member of an agricultural association shall pay annual dues of one catty of rice. Buildings and equipment for the use of the agricultural associations shall be provided by the People's government. In the matter of privileges of use of the posts, telegraphs, telephones, railways, highways, boat service etc., the agricultural associations shall enjoy the same privileges as officials of the People's government on the same level.

18. A report of receipts and disbursements of the association shall be rendered at stated periods to the peasants' delegates' meeting for approval before being publicly reported to the peasants.

E. By Laws

19. The various provincial agricultural associations should establish unified regulations for the agricultural associations of the province in accord with these regulations which shall be put into effect after having been passed

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by the provincial peasants' delegates' meeting. Any regulations for agricultural associations heretofore announced that may be in conflict with these present regulations shall be revised in accordance herewith.

20. These regulations shall be published and be in force after approval by the political conference of the Administration Council.

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